

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 ACDA-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5517

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 342

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS PORG UN AORG CA

SUBJ GENEVA GROUP CONSULTATION: PREVENTING
POLITICIZATION OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

REF STATE 17162

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED POINTS RAISED REFTEL, AND LEFT
PAPER WITH SUBSTANCE PARAS 2-4, WITH BROWN, EXTAFF
DIRECTOR UN POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND OTHER OFFICIALS IN
HIS OFFICE. BROWN WILL HEAD OTTAWA DELEGATION TO
GENEVA GROUP CONSULTATIONS. OFFICIALS GRATEFUL FOR
PRIOR NOTICE US THINKING ON THIS SUBJECT, WHICH WILL
GIVE EXTAFF TIME TO PRESENT MORE SUBSTANTIVE REACTIONS
IN GENEVA.

2. STRESSING THAT HIS REACTION WAS PRELIMINARY AND
NOT THOROUGHLY THOUGHT OUT, BROWN SAID EXTAFF SHARED
US CONCERNS AT DEGREE OF POLITICIZATION OF
SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, AND POSSIBILITY EXISTED
THAT CANADIAN PUBLIC OPINION WOULD EVENTUALLY
BECOME ALIENATED TO UN. UNESCO ACTION REGARDING
ISRAEL WAS ANGRILY RECEIVED IN CANADA, AND AMBASSADOR
SCALI'S SPEECH AT CLOSE OF UNGA HAD STRUCK SYMPATHETIC
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CHORD. HOWEVER, WHILE EXTAFF OFFICIALS SHARE

FRUSTRATION AT LENGTHY CREDENTIALS AND OTHER POLITICAL STRUGGLES IN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, THEY QUESTIONED DEGREE TO WHICH THESE HAVE DETRACTED FROM SUBSTANTIVE WORK. IF USG HAS MORE DETAILED RESEARCH ON THIS QUESTION, CANADIAN DEL WOULD APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITY REVIEW IT IN GENEVA.

3. EXTAFF OFFICIALS WERE PARTICULARLY INTRIGUED WITH SUGGESTION MADE PARA 3A REFTTEL, THAT EMPHASIS ON SUBSTANTIVE WORK MIGHT INDUCE LDC'S TO DIMINISH POLITICAL CONTENTION. OFFICIALS AGREED THIS MIGHT BE USEFUL, BUT SUGGESTED AGENDAS SUFFICIENTLY ATTRACTIVE TO LDC'S MIGHT INVOLVE GENEVA GROUP AND OTHER DEVELOPED NATIONS IN CONCESSIONS THEY WOULD PREFER NOT TO MAKE, PARTICULARLY IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AREAS.

4. EXTAFF OFFICIALS SAW LITTLE HOPE FOR REVISION OF RULES AND PROCEDURES TO REDUCE POLITICAL DEBATE. PROPOSAL TO PUT CREDENTIAL AND SIMILAR ISSUES AT END OF AGENDAS IS VERY ATTRACTIVE, BUT "AUTOMATIC" LDC MAJORITY WOULD ALMOST SURELY BE OPPOSED.

5. BROWN SAID GOC SYMPATHETIC TO US VIEWS ON THESE PROBLEMS, BUT SAW DIFFICULTIES WITH PROPOSED SOLUTIONS, ALTHOUGH GOC DID NOT HAVE VIABLE ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS TO OFFER. HE AGREED DISCUSSION IN GENEVA GROUP COULD BE USEFUL, AND IS LOOKING FORWARD TO FEBRUARY 4 SESSION.
PORTER

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